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Report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

Note by the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.

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I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the present document is to respond to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/217, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to transmit to it every year, starting in 2012, a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations made, as well as the results achieved, by the Committee in the area of food security and nutrition, in accordance with its new roles and vision. More information regarding the new roles and vision of the reformed Committee can be found in A/66/76-E/2011/102 and A/65/73-E/2010/51.

2. The report begins by broadly outlining the approach of the Committee during its second year after the reform followed by a brief description of the main outcomes and decisions taken by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session, in October 2011, and, where appropriate, updates on follow-up actions. The final report on the thirty-seventh session (see annex) includes policy recommendations on such topics as food security and smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture, gender, food security and nutrition and food price volatility.

II. Main decisions, recommendations and results

3. In 2011, the work of the Committee, its Bureau and its Advisory Group continued to benefit from some of the key features of the reform of the Committee, namely:

(a) More inclusive and expanded participation in the Committee by a wide range of relevant stakeholders to ensure that their voices are heard in policy debates on food security and nutrition;

(b) Increased intersessional activities to ensure more focused debates and discussions at the annual plenary sessions;

(c) Strengthened linkages between the work of the Committee at the global level with the regional and national levels;

(d) The inclusion of structured expertise through the creation of a high-level panel of experts on food security and nutrition;

(e) Support by the joint Committee on World Food Security secretariat, which now includes staff and financial contributions from FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

4. One key outcome of the Committee in 2011-2012 was the successful negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Negotiations, led by the Committee, were held in June, July and October 2011 and were finalized in March 2012. The guidelines are to be submitted to the Committee at a one-day special session in May 2012 for endorsement. They are intended to serve as a reference and to provide guidance to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the goal of achieving food security for all and supporting

the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

Addressing food price volatility

5. Food price volatility was maintained as a high priority on the agenda of the Committee. It was the topic of one of the policy round tables held during the thirty-seventh session, which benefited from the flagship publication, jointly produced by FAO, IFAD and WFP, entitled *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011: How Does International Price Volatility Affect Domestic Economies and Food Security?* On the basis of the outcome of the round table, the Committee supported the establishment of the Agricultural Market Information System rapid-response forum and requested the Bureau to ensure appropriate links between the forum and the Committee. The Committee also requested that the international organizations, in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, develop a framework for a draft voluntary code of conduct for the management of emergency humanitarian food reserves for further consideration by the Committee.

Development of a global strategic framework on food security and nutrition

6. One of the key roles of the reformed Committee on World Food Security is to develop a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition in order to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders. The framework will be flexible so that it can be adjusted as priorities change and will build upon existing frameworks. The purpose of the framework is to serve as a dynamic instrument to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders in support of global, regional and country-led actions to prevent future food crises, eliminate hunger and ensure food security and nutrition for all human beings. An intensive and inclusive consultation process has been undertaken under the guidance of a Bureau-led working group in 2011 and 2012, including several rounds of online consultations and face-to-face multi-stakeholder consultations in Rome and at each of the FAO regional conferences held in early 2012. The consultation process will be finalized in Rome in July 2012 and the resulting first draft of the global strategic framework will be submitted to the Committee at its plenary session in October 2012.

High-level expert forum on addressing food insecurity in protracted crises

7. The Committee approved a proposal to organize a high-level expert forum on food security in countries in protracted crises. The purpose of the forum, which is scheduled for mid-September 2012, is to provide an opportunity for consultation and policy dialogue to increase understanding and strengthen collaborative efforts to deal more appropriately with food security and nutrition in protracted crises. An extensive consultation on the outcomes of the forum will be held with a view to elaborating an agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crises for the consideration of the plenary in October 2012.

Principles for responsible agricultural investment

8. One of the outcomes of the policy round-table discussion held during the thirty-seventh session on the theme "How to increase food security and smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture" was the establishment of a Bureau-led working

group to propose a consultation process within the Committee to prepare principles for responsible agricultural investment. The purpose is to offer policy guidance and a common understanding for Governments, international organizations, investors and other stakeholders to ensure that investments in agriculture have a positive impact on food security and nutrition. In order to ensure consistency and complementarity with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, it was agreed that such a consultation process should start after the approval of the guidelines. It was also agreed that the first step of the consultation would be to develop terms of reference outlining the scope, purpose, intended recipients and the structure, as well as the format, of the process, taking into account existing frameworks. Governments and other stakeholders were encouraged to report to the Committee on actions being taken to align international and domestic private and public investment in agriculture with food security concerns and to share lessons learned from national experiences. This reporting should be prepared in the context of a multi-stakeholder forum that replicates the inclusive vision of the Committee at the country level.

Mapping food security and nutrition actions at the country level

9. Efforts to improve the mapping of food security and nutrition actions at the country level continued in 2011, including the holding of a technical consultative workshop in May. The outcomes of the workshop were reported to the Committee at its thirty-seventh session and were supported by lessons learned from five country case studies. As part of its efforts to support food security and nutrition governance at the regional level, the Committee also recommended that the process to map food security and nutrition actions be considered during the FAO regional conferences in 2012 and that the outcomes of those discussions be presented during its October 2012 session.

Food security and nutrition terminology options paper

10. At its thirty-seventh session, the Committee requested that an options paper on the meaning and different uses, if any, of the terms "food security", "food security and nutrition", "food and nutrition security" and "nutrition security" be presented to the plenary. The purpose of the options paper is to improve the overall understanding of and coordination among stakeholders and to provide a standardized and agreed terminology that the Committee may use taking into account that nutrition is a key pillar of food security, as officially defined. The paper is currently in preparation and will be presented to the Committee in October 2012 for its consideration.

Update on the work of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

11. At the thirty-seventh session, the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition presented its first reports, requested by the Committee. The reports, on land tenure and international investments in agriculture and on price volatility and food security, fed into two policy round tables. Policy recommendations resulting from the discussions are provided in the annex. Studies on social protection and food security and on climate change and food security will be presented at the next session of the Committee, in October 2012. The High-level Panel of Experts on

Food Security and Nutrition has also been requested to include in its 2013 workplan studies on constraints to smallholder investment and on biofuels and food security.

Round table on hunger estimates

12. A round table to review methods used to estimate the number of the hungry was held in September 2011 to discuss state-of-the-art methods used for analysing and quantifying food insecurity and to seek agreement on future directions for research and policy analysis. The Committee endorsed the key findings and recommendations and requested the secretariat to report to it on progress achieved.

Annex

Report of the Committee on World Food Security on its thirty-seventh session

Summary

At its second session since reform, the Committee on World Food Security addressed nine agenda items corresponding to the roles of the Committee and further implementation of its reform. Organizational matters were dealt with in item I. In item II, opening statements were heard from the heads of the three Rome-based agencies, the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chair of the High-level Panel of Experts Steering Committee. In addition, the essence of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011* was presented by the Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security were addressed in item III. Item IV included updates on global and regional initiatives. In item V, seven sessions were devoted to three round tables seeking policy recommendations on topics central to food security and nutrition. In item VI, ways to strengthen global coordination and national processes were addressed, including mapping food security and nutrition actions, progress made in preparing a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition and methods to estimate the number of the hungry. Item VII was devoted to implementing reform of the Committee, including changes to the rules of procedure and preparing a results-based framework and a multi-year programme of work and budget for the Committee. In item VIII, other matters such as an update on the implementation of the Committee's decisions, a proposal to enhance private sector participation in the Committee, arrangements for the thirty-eighth session and the election of a Chair and the new composition of the Bureau for 2012-2013, were addressed. The report of the session was adopted under item IX.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to acknowledge the outcomes of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee, at which the Committee:

(a) Mandated the Bureau to call for an additional negotiation session with the intent of finalizing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security as soon as possible;

(b) Requested the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition to include in its plans for future work, taking into account available resources, a comparative study of constraints to smallholder investment in agriculture in different contexts with policy options to address those constraints;

(c) Supported an inclusive consultation process within the Committee for the development and the broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhance food security and nutrition;

(d) Requested the Bureau to propose options on the meaning and different uses, if any, of the terms "food security", "food security and nutrition", "food and nutrition security" and "nutrition security";

(e) Requested the secretariat to continue to facilitate the process of developing and implementing country-level mapping of actions for food security and nutrition and to report on the progress of those actions at the thirty-eighth session of the Committee;

(f) Agreed to develop a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition, to be submitted to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session;

(g) Endorsed the proposal to create a suite of core food security indicators, including the development, adoption and promotion of internationally accepted standards, and strongly recommended that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) improve its measurement of undernourishment, with special emphasis on improving the timeliness and reliability of the underlying data and parameters included in the methodology;

(h) Adopted the revised rules of procedure of the Committee set out (CFS:2011/9 Rev.1), and mandated the Bureau to further clarify and improve them to ensure conformity to the reform document and recommend adjustments to rule XXXIII of the FAO General Rules of the Organization by the next regular session of the Committee;

(i) Approved the results-based framework for the Committee and requested the secretariat to prepare a succinct annual report on expenditures against projected costs from available resources and further integrate the 2012-2013 programme of work and budget with the results-based framework to be presented to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session, in 2012;

(j) Approved the proposal to organize a high-level expert forum on food security in countries in protracted crises with a view to, inter alia, elaborating an agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crises.

Suggested action by the FAO Conference

The FAO Conference is invited to acknowledge the outcomes of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on World Food Security, whereby the Committee:

(a) Recognized the importance of following points that emerged from the updates on global and regional initiatives and linkages with the Committee, namely: (i) facilitating support for country-led efforts to achieve food security and nutrition; (ii) promoting accountability and sharing best practices at all levels; (iii) developing innovative mechanisms to monitor progress in achieving food security and nutrition objectives; (iv) providing a forum for mutual information, discussion and coordination of major food security and nutrition initiatives; and (v) operationalizing linkages with regional initiatives;

(b) Welcomed the outcomes from three round tables on the following themes: "How to increase food security and smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture"; "Gender, food security and nutrition"; and "Food price volatility";

(c) Mandated the Bureau to recommend an update of rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization so as to make it conform with the reform document.

I. Organizational matters

1. The Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its thirty-seventh session from 17 to 22 October 2011 at FAO headquarters in Rome. The session was attended by delegates representing 114 members of the Committee, 21 observers and participants from:

- 8 United Nations agencies and bodies
- 82 civil society and non-governmental organizations
- 3 international agricultural research organizations
- 5 international and regional financial institutions
- 31 private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations

2. The session was opened by the Chair, Noel De Luna of the Philippines. The Committee appointed a Drafting Committee composed of Afghanistan, Argentina, Canada, China, Equatorial Guinea, France, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the Syrian Arab Republic, under the chairmanship of Gerda Verburg (the Netherlands).

3. The Committee was informed that the European Union was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of article II of the FAO Constitution.

II. Setting the stage for the thirty-seventh session

4. Opening statements were delivered by Jacques Diouf, Director General, FAO; Kanayo Nwanze, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Josette Sheeran, Executive Director, World Food Programme; David Nabarro, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition; and Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, Chair of the Steering Committee of the High-level Panel of Experts.

5. The Committee considered a presentation by Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Department, FAO, on *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011* on how international price volatility affects domestic economies and food security.

6. It was noted that the substance of the publication would be covered in the policy round-table discussions.

7. The presentation focused on the following key messages:

(a) The impact of price shocks and swings on food security is not uniform, with poorer countries being the hardest hit;

(b) The level and volatility of domestic food prices rose in most countries;

(c) High and volatile food prices are likely to continue in the future;

(d) Short-term price shocks can have long-term negative impacts on production, nutrition and livelihoods;

(e) High prices have potential benefits for farmers, especially if accompanied by appropriate policies and programmes for smallholder agriculture;

(f) Policy measures are needed at the national and global levels to reduce volatility and to protect vulnerable groups from its effects.

8. Some members expressed satisfaction with the effort by FAO to improve its methodology for measuring hunger and are looking forward to having estimates based on the new methodology in *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012*.

III. Voluntary Fuidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

9. The Committee:

(a) Acknowledged the outstanding efforts that have been made by all stakeholders regarding the negotiations of the guidelines;

(b) Recognized that additional time will be required to complete the process and endorsed its continuation and finalization;

(c) Acknowledged the substantial progress gained so far and recommended building on the solid base that has been achieved, while concentrating on the remaining paragraphs and respecting and maintaining the spirit of understanding reached during the negotiations in July and October;

(d) Appreciated the commitment of member States to the completion of the guidelines;

(e) Recalled that the ultimate authority for approval of the guidelines rests with the member States;

(f) Mandated the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and the secretariat, to call for an additional negotiation session with the intent of finalizing the guidelines as soon as possible, taking into consideration the Committee's overall work programme and available resources;

(g) Requested the secretariat to ensure that during the upcoming negotiations, translation in all FAO languages is provided and that the current negotiated text is available in those languages.

IV. Updates on global and regional initiatives and linkages with the Committee

10. The Chair noted that the purpose of the session was to provide a platform for discussion to strengthen coordination and collaborative action at the global and regional levels among a wide variety of stakeholders.

11. The Committee welcomed the presentation of seven global initiatives:[1]

[1] Available presentations can be found on the Committee on World Food Security website, at: http://www.fao.org/bodies/cfs/cfs37/en/.

(a) The Group of 20 action plan on food price volatility and agriculture, by Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Rural Affairs and Land Use Planning of France, on behalf of the Group of 20 Presidency;

(b) Update on the L'Aquila food security initiative, by Sujiro Seam, Chair of the Initiative and Deputy Director for Global Public Goods, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;

(c) Principled multi-stakeholder partnerships for a comprehensive approach to food security and nutrition, by David Nabarro, Coordinator of the United Nations High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition;

(d) Achieving the right to food: from global governance to national implementation, by Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food;

(e) Towards food and nutrition security for all: United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition/Committee on World Food Security linkages: progress in the last 12 months, by Denise Costa Coitinho Delmuè, Executive Secretary, United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition;

(f) Update of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Implementation Strategy and Results Framework, by Carlos Pérez del Castillo, Chair of the Consortium Board of CGIAR Centres;

(g) The World Trade Organization (WTO) and food security, by Clem Boonekamp, Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO.

12. The Committee welcomed the following presentations of regional initiatives:

(a) The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme: its achievements and how linkages with the Committee on World Food Security can be strengthened, by Tobias Takavarasha, Senior Officer for Agriculture Policy and Investment, New Partnership for Africa's Development;

(b) The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) food and nutrition security strategy, by José Amaro Tati, Secretary of State for Agriculture, on behalf of the Government of Angola, and Domingos Simões Pereira, Secretary-General, CPLP;

(c) West Africa Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, by Alhousseini Bretaudeau, Executive Secretary, Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

(d) Responding to the 2011 drought emergency in the Horn of Africa, by Samuel Zziwa, Programme Manager, Intergovernmental Authority on Development;

(e) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ministerial meeting on food security, Niigata City, Japan, October 2010: an overview, by Yutaka Sumita, Deputy Director General for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

13. The Committee was also presented with the salient points from the regional multi-stakeholder workshop on food security and nutrition for the Near East and North Africa region, held in October 2011 in Cairo under the Committee's umbrella. Among its main recommendations, the workshop proposed the establishment of a

regional Committee on World Food Security-type platform to monitor food security in the region and enable policy practitioners to share information, good practices and lessons learned (CFS:2011/Inf.19).

14. Emerging from the discussions, the Committee recognized the importance of:

(a) Facilitating support for country-led efforts to achieve food security and nutrition;

(b) Promoting accountability and sharing best practices at all levels;

(c) Developing innovative mechanisms to monitor progress in achieving food security and nutrition objectives;

(d) Providing a forum for mutual information, discussion and coordination of major food security and nutrition initiatives;

(e) Operationalizing linkages with regional initiatives.

15. The Committee decided to include CPLP as an observer at its sessions.

V. Policy round tables

16. The Committee hosted three policy round tables on the following themes: (a) "How to increase food security and smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture"; (b) "Gender, food security and nutrition"; and (c) "Food price volatility". The outcomes of the Committee's deliberations are set out below.

A. How to increase food security and smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture

17. The Committee:

(a) Underlined the paramount importance of increased and improved investment in agriculture for achieving food security and nutrition for all;

(b) Recognized that the bulk of investment in agriculture is undertaken by farmers and smallholders themselves, their cooperatives and other rural enterprises, with the rest being provided by a number of private actors as well as Governments;

(c) Acknowledged that smallholder farmers, many of whom are women, play a central role in producing most of the food consumed locally in many developing regions and are the primary investors in agriculture in many developing countries;

(d) Welcomed the report of the High-level Panel of Experts on land tenure and international investments in agriculture, and took note of its recommendations;

(e) Took note of the report and recommendations resulting from the regional multi-stakeholder workshop on food security and nutrition for the Near East and North Africa region.

18. The Committee, therefore, urged member Governments, international partners and other stakeholders to follow up on the recommendations:

(a) To ensure that public investment, services and policies for agriculture give due priority to enabling, supporting and complementing smallholders' own

investment, with particular attention to women food producers who face specific difficulties and need specific policies and support;

(b) To ensure that agricultural policies and public investment give priority to food production and nutrition and increase the resilience of local and traditional food systems and biodiversity, with a focus on strengthening sustainable smallholder food production, reducing post-harvest losses and increasing post-harvest value addition, and on fostering smallholder-inclusive local, national and regional food markets, including transportation, storage and processing;

(c) To ensure that public policies and investment play a catalytic role in the formation of partnerships among agricultural investors, including private-public, farmer cooperative-private and private-private partnerships, to ensure that the interests of smallholders are being served and preserved by those partnerships, and to recognize that, in many cases, the State has a crucial role to play in facilitating the access of smallholders to credit, technical and extension services, insurance and markets;

(d) To give due attention to new market and environmental risks facing smallholder agriculture and design investments, services and policies so as to mitigate those risks and strengthen the ability of both women and men smallholders to manage them, and align investment in agriculture with environmental sustainability considerations;

(e) To actively involve organizations representing smallholders and agricultural workers in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies for investment in agriculture and in the design of investment programmes in agriculture and food value chains.

19. Furthermore, the Committee:

(a) Encouraged Governments and other stakeholders to report to the Committee as determined in the framework of "mapping food security actions at the country level", on actions being taken to align international and domestic private and public investment in agriculture with food security concerns, including progress made in the implementation of the foregoing recommendations, and to share lessons learned from national experiences; such reporting should be prepared in the context of a multi-actor forum that replicates at the country level the inclusive vision of the new Committee on World Food Security;

(b) Requested the High-level Panel of Experts to include in its plans for future work, taking into account available resources, a comparative study of constraints to smallholder investment in agriculture in different contexts, with policy options for addressing those constraints, taking into consideration the work done on this topic by IFAD, and by FAO in the context of its Committee on Agriculture, and the work of other key partners. This should include a comparative assessment of strategies for linking smallholders to food value chains in national and regional markets and of what can be learned from different experiences, as well as an assessment of the impacts on smallholders of public-private as well as farmer cooperative-private and private-private partnerships;

(c) Recognized the urgent need to finalize the negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

in the Context of National Food Security, which will underpin smallholder investment in agriculture;

(d) Supported an inclusive consultation process within the Committee for the development and the broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhance food security and nutrition, and acknowledged that the first step of the process would be to develop terms of reference that included the scope, purpose, intended recipients and structure of those principles, as well as the format of the consultation process, taking into account existing frameworks, such as the principles for responsible agricultural investment, developed by FAO, IFAD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank; decided that the consultation process would be initiated promptly after the approval of the guidelines and would be overseen by the Bureau of the Committee, with the assistance of the joint secretariat and in close collaboration with the Advisory Group and the involvement of all interested stakeholders, with a view to submitting the principles for the consideration of the Committee; and noted that the consultation process would seek to ensure consistency and complementarity with the guidelines;

(e) Urged the explicit recognition of smallholder-sensitive investment among the criteria for characterizing responsible corporate investment in agriculture, and noted that the definition of that term should be addressed specifically in the consultation on responsible investment in agriculture;

(f) Requested the secretariat of the Committee, in collaboration with the Advisory Group and on the basis of the information made available by the relevant stakeholders, to prepare a general report on the state of implementation of the foregoing recommendations to be presented to the Committee.

B. Gender, food security and nutrition

20. The Committee:

(a) Recognized that achieving food security and adequate nutrition for women, men and their families are interlinked with comprehensive development efforts and urged all stakeholders to take concrete actions to improve women's health, educational and nutritional status;

(b) Called upon member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to recognize that advancing human rights is critical for achieving world food security and nutrition;

(c) Urged member States, through measures including affirmative action, when appropriate:

(i) To ensure women's meaningful participation in all decision-making processes related to achieving their progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security and nutrition;

(ii) To ensure that women have equal access to health, education, land, water and other natural resources, including by enacting gender-sensitive legislation;

(d) Urged member States to actively promote women's leadership and to strengthen women's capacity for collective organizing, especially in rural areas;

(e) Urged member States to develop a policy and legal framework with appropriate compliance monitoring to ensure women's and men's equal access to productive resources, including land ownership and inheritance, access to financial services, agricultural technology and information, business registration and operation and employment opportunities, and to enact and enforce laws that protect women from all kinds of violence, and noted that, where appropriate, member States should audit all existing laws for discrimination and amend discriminatory laws;

(f) Urged member States to involve women in the decision-making process with regard to national and international responses to global challenges to food security and nutrition;

(g) Called upon member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to include the improvement of women's, adolescent girls', infants' and children's nutritional status, including hidden hunger or micronutrient deficiencies and obesity as a new manifestation of malnutrition, as an explicit goal and expected outcome of agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes, emergency responses, strategies and policies, from design to implementation;

(h) Recalled the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, and in particular its recommendations for advancing women's food security under the strategic objectives on macroeconomic and development policies, vocational training and continuing education, health, access to resources, employment, markets and trade and sustainable development;

(i) Urged the Bureau to encourage and engage as appropriate with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in the development of specific indicators, targets and timetables so as to measure progress made towards advancing women's food security, and to invite UN-Women to report on progress at the thirty-ninth session of the Committee;

(j) Took note of the report and recommendations relating to gender, food security and nutrition resulting from the regional multi-stakeholder workshop on food security and nutrition for the Near East and North Africa region;

(k) Called upon member States to support the adoption and implementation of maternity and paternity protection legislation and related measures that allow women and men to perform their caregiving role and thereby provide for the nutritional needs of their children and protect their own health, while protecting their employment security;

(l) Urged member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to work together to promote synergies and avoid wasteful duplication and to identify and support strategies, policies and actions to further strengthen gender-sensitive food security and nutrition, health and education interventions that scale up practical solutions for women, including the following:

(i) Statistics with regard to food security and nutrition should be disaggregated by sex and age;

(ii) Gender analysis and nutritional impact assessments should be conducted to inform food security and nutrition policy, programme and project design,

implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including the use of appropriate indicators, gender targets and funding;

(iii) Agricultural investments should meet the specific needs of both women and men, given that investments in land and other natural resources have an impact on women's food security; agricultural investment plans, policies and programmes should be designed so that women and men have equal access to programme services and operations, given women's and men's commitments to household economies and to child-rearing and recognizing their different needs;

(iv) Smallholder women farmers should be prioritized in agricultural programming to foster equity, and the specific food and nutritional needs of women, men and children should be taken into consideration;

(v) The adoption of safety net programmes should be supported, including home-grown meals at school and school gardens, which encourage girls' attendance at school and link the economic empowerment of women smallholders, food security and nutrition of girls in school with improved education outcomes;

(m) Recommended that gender be included in the monitoring mechanisms of current and future voluntary guidelines, including on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security and similar initiatives that will be discussed or endorsed by the Committee;

(n) Requested the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and joint secretariat, as well as with relevant international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to propose options on the meaning and different uses, if any, of the terms "food security", "food security and nutrition", "food and nutrition security" and "nutrition security" to the Committee for the standardization of the official terminology that the Committee should use, taking into account that nutrition is a key pillar of food security as officially defined;

(o) Requested the secretariat, in collaboration with the Advisory Group and on the basis of information made available by the relevant stakeholders, to prepare a general report on the state of implementation of the above recommendations to be presented to the Committee.

C. Food price volatility

21. The Committee:

(a) Stressed the need for concerted international efforts to address the structural causes of food price volatility and ensure that its impacts do not undermine small and marginal producers or consumers' right to food;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the High-level Panel of Experts for its work on price volatility and food security and took note of its report and recommendations thereon;

(c) Welcomed the Group of 20 action plan on food price volatility and agriculture as an effort to address a number of the main causes and implications of food price volatility and stated that it would welcome its endorsement by the Group of 20 at its November 2011 summit;

(d) Welcomed the outcome of the regional multi-stakeholder workshop on food security and nutrition for the Near East and North Africa region, and encouraged the regional members to deal with coordination issues at both the regional and the national levels;

(e) Took note of the assessment by FAO and other stakeholders of the positive and negative effects of different policy responses to high and volatile food prices, as discussed in the series of regional and subregional consultations organized by FAO in 2011;

(f) Recommended the following action points, their development and implementation, by the appropriate parties and stakeholders:

(i) Actions to increase food production and availability and to enhance resilience to shocks:

a. Increase stable and sustainable public and private investment to strengthen smallholder production systems, boost agricultural productivity, foster rural development and increase resilience, with particular attention to smallholder agriculture;

b. Promote a significant expansion of agricultural research and development and its funding, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions and promoting technology transfer, the sharing of knowledge and practices, including for family farming, and capacity-building through North-South and South-South cooperation;

c. Support the development or review by member States, of comprehensive national food security strategies that are country owned and led, evidence based and inclusive of all key partners at the national level, in particular civil society and women's and farmers' organizations, and that promote policy coherence in the various sectors, including national economic policies, to address food price volatility;

d. Urge member States to explore measures and incentives to reduce waste and losses in the food system, including by addressing post-harvest losses;

(ii) Actions to reduce volatility:

a. Support the Agricultural Market Information System to enhance food market information and transparency, and urge the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products;

b. Acknowledging the need for countries to better coordinate responses in times of food price crises, support the establishment of an Agricultural Market Information System rapid response forum and request the

Bureau to ensure appropriate links between the forum and the Committee on World Food Security;

c. Improve transparency, regulation and supervision of agricultural derivative markets;

d. Noting that transparent and predictable international trade in food is crucial for reducing excessive price volatility and for maintaining a focus on building an accountable and rules-based multilateral trading system that takes into account food security concerns, in particular those of the least developed and net food-importing developing countries, support an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive conclusion of the Doha Development Round in accordance with its mandate;

e. Review biofuels policies, where applicable and necessary, according to balanced science-based assessments of the opportunities and challenges they may present for food security, so that biofuels can be produced where it is socially, economically and environmentally feasible to do so, and, accordingly, mandate the High-level Panel of Experts, with full consideration of resources and other priorities of the Committee, to conduct a science-based comparative literature analysis, taking into consideration the work produced by FAO and the Global Bioenergy Partnership, of the positive and negative effects of biofuels on food security to be presented to the Committee;

f. Request relevant international organizations, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, to further assess the constraints and effectiveness of local, national and regional food reserves;

(iii) Actions to mitigate the negative impacts of volatility:

a. Increase the role of the State, where appropriate, to mitigate the negative impacts of volatility, including through the development of stable, long-term national social protection strategies and safety nets, addressing in particular vulnerable categories of populations such as women and children, that can be leveraged and scaled up in times of crisis, and reiterate, in this context, the mandate for a High-level Panel of Experts study on the matter, to be presented to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session;

b. Recommend the use of national and local social safety nets and local purchase mechanisms, whenever appropriate, for the delivery of food aid, while taking time, market, production, institutional and other relevant factors into account, in accordance with the rules of the multilateral trading system;

c. Endorse efforts requested by the Group of 20 for WFP and other international organizations and partners (such as the Economic Community of West African States) to support the development of a pilot project in West Africa for a targeted regional emergency humanitarian food reserve, consistent with annex 2 to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture;

d. Request that the international organizations, in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, develop a framework for a draft voluntary code of conduct for the management of emergency humanitarian food reserves, for further consideration by the Committee;

e. Develop risk management instruments, including for mitigating the impact of price shocks, and recommend their mainstreaming into national food security strategies focused on mitigating risk for the most vulnerable against food price volatility, with attention given to the inclusion of best practices and lessons learned for vulnerable small-scale food producers;

f. Welcome the decision by the Group of 20 to agree to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by WFP and to not impose them in the future, and urge all member States to agree to the same principle;

g. Welcome increased international support for food assistance, especially in times of high and volatile food prices and on the basis of need, including under the framework of the Food Aid Convention;

(g) Recommended that FAO, IFAD, WFP and other relevant international organizations and Committee on World Food Security stakeholders reinforce the policy dialogue among themselves and member States with a view to enhancing the adoption and implementation of the foregoing recommendations at all appropriate levels;

(h) Requested the secretariat to prepare, in collaboration with the Advisory Group and on the basis of information made available by the relevant stakeholders, a general report on the state of implementation of all of the foregoing recommendations and action points, to be presented to the Committee on a date to be decided by its Bureau.

VI. Global coordination and support for national processes

A. Mapping food security and nutrition actions at the country level: the way forward and country case studies on mapping

22. The Committee considered the progress made since its thirty-sixth session, which was further supported by five case studies examining experiences with and lessons learned from mapping food security and nutrition actions, in Nigeria, Madagascar, the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories) and Cambodia and under the Regional Programme for Food Security and Nutrition in Central America, based in El Salvador.

23. The Committee:

(a) Requested the secretariat to continue to facilitate the process of developing and implementing country-level mapping of food security and nutrition and to provide an update to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session;

(b) Encouraged interested stakeholders and relevant sectors to participate in assisting countries with the development and implementation of mapping food security and nutrition actions and to form appropriate multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and encouraged the harmonization of methods;

(c) Recommended that additional national Governments be invited to make presentations at the thirty-eighth session of the Committee, with a view to sharing the results of the mapping of food security and nutrition actions with other national

Governments, exchange experiences among countries and international actors and obtain their support for the country-level mapping process;

(d) Recommended that adequate resources be made available to fund follow-up activities to provide interested countries with technical support for the development and implementation of food security and nutrition mapping systems as part of their national development monitoring efforts;

(e) Recommended that the process to map food security and nutrition actions be made an integral part of national information systems covering the food and agricultural sector;

(f) Encouraged the use of a standard methodology in the process to map food security and nutrition actions at the country level;

(g) Recommended that the process to map food security and nutrition actions be considered during FAO regional conferences that will be held in 2012, with the outcomes of the discussions to be presented to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session;

(h) Requested the secretariat to work with the appropriate stakeholders to facilitate the development of systems to consolidate and disseminate the results of food security and nutrition mapping, to improve the alignment and coordination of the international community in support of national and regional strategies and policies and to submit a progress report on this process to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session.

24. The Committee also endorsed the recommendations in section IV of document CFS:2011/7.

B. Status of the global strategic framework

25. Bearing in mind the agreement of member States to develop a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition, to be submitted to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session, and considering the progress made so far, the Committee:

(a) Acknowledged the Bureau-led consultative and inclusive process that has led to an agreement among participating stakeholders on the proposed purposes, basic principles, structure and process of the global strategic framework (CFS:2011/Inf.14), the global strategic framework annotated outline (CFS:2011/Inf.13) and the online consultation to solicit feedback from a wide range of stakeholders on the annotated outline, which will be taken into consideration when preparing the first draft;

(b) Underlined the critical role of planned consultations on the global strategic framework and encouraged all stakeholders to participate in them actively at the international and regional levels in 2012, including by mobilizing resources to ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most affected by food insecurity, are heard;

(c) Underlined the role of the global strategic framework as a dynamic instrument reflecting and consolidating the ongoing policy convergence work of the Committee, and determined that the decisions and recommendations of the Committee at its thirty-seventh session with respect to food price volatility,

smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture and gender, food security and nutrition would be incorporated and developed, as appropriate, in the final draft of the framework.

C. Review of methods to estimate the number of the hungry

26. The Committee welcomed the report of the round table on monitoring food security, held on 12 and 13 September 2011 in Rome, and the key findings and recommendations contained therein. In particular, the Committee:

(a) Endorsed the proposal to create a suite of core food security indicators and the process of doing so as described in the document, including the development, adoption and promotion of internationally accepted standards;

(b) Strongly recommended that FAO improve its measurement of undernourishment, with special emphasis on improving the timeliness and reliability of the underlying data and parameters included in the methodology;

(c) Strongly encouraged FAO and other relevant agencies to strengthen their capacity-development efforts in order to enhance both basic food and agricultural statistics and specific food security monitoring systems;

(d) Urged countries to strengthen their national information systems on food security and nutrition;

(e) Underlined the need to better integrate all actions related to food security and nutrition information at all levels, and encouraged the mobilization of resources to that end;

(f) Recommended that the dialogue between policymakers, statistical agencies and data providers be further intensified in order to better identify and link information needs for the design, implementation and monitoring of food security policies to the supply of such information;

(g) Called upon the secretariat to report to the plenary on progress regarding recommended actions; the Bureau of the Committee, in consultation with the secretariat and the Advisory Group, would decide on the timing and other modalities of this reporting in accordance with the Committee's work programme and available resources.

VII. Implementation of the reform of the Committee on World Food Security

A. Rules of procedure

27. The Chair and the secretariat introduced the revised rules of procedure of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS:2011/9 Rev.1) and the Committee subsequently adopted them.

28. The Committee also:

(a) Mandated the Bureau to recommend an update of rule XXXIII of the FAO General Rules of the Organization by the next regular session of the

Committee, to be forwarded to the next FAO Conference in June 2013 so as to make it conform with the Committee's reform document as well as with the revised rules of procedure, and noted that due regard should be paid to the text and spirit of the reform document in the meantime;

(b) Reaffirmed the importance of the reform document, which should continue to serve as the main reference document regarding the status of the reformed Committee, including with respect to the interpretation of the rules of procedure;

(c) Requested the Bureau to further analyse, in coordination with the relevant agencies, the modalities and requirements whereby a system of rotation of the Committee Secretary among FAO, IFAD and WFP could be implemented, including the required qualifications and terms of reference for the Secretary as well as the reporting lines, with a view to allowing the Committee to make an informed decision on the matter at its next regular session;

(d) Requested the Bureau, in coordination with the relevant agencies, to further analyse the modalities and requirements for inclusion in the secretariat of other United Nations entities directly concerned with food security and nutrition with a view to allowing the Committee to take an informed decision on the matter at its next regular session.

29. The Committee outlined a number of areas in which its rules of procedure should be further clarified and improved, including procedures to elect the Chair, such as term limits and eligibility for re-election, deadlines for the nomination of the candidates and regional rotations. The procedures for the election of the Bureau members and their alternates should be clarified as well. Those improvements, together with a proposed revision of rule XXXIII of the General Rules of FAO, which would have to be approved by the FAO Conference, are to be presented to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session.

B. Results-based framework

30. The Committee:

(a) Approved the results-based framework as a dynamic document, recognizing that refinements are required;

(b) Requested the secretariat to prepare, on the basis of commitments made since the reform of the Committee, a succinct annual report on expenditures against projected costs from available resources;

(c) Requested the Bureau to work with the secretariat to further integrate the 2012-2013 programme of work and budget with the results-based framework with a view to preparing a more detailed and prioritized multi-year programme of work and budget to be presented to the Committee at its thirty-eighth session.

VIII. Other matters

A. Update on decisions: high-level expert forum on addressing food insecurity in protracted crises

31. The Committee:

(a) Approved the proposal to organize a high-level expert forum with a view, inter alia, to elaborating an agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crises;

(b) Agreed that the Bureau would oversee the modalities for the organization of the high-level expert forum in collaboration with the secretariat, the Advisory Group and the High-level Panel of Experts, as appropriate, and that the report of the outcomes of the forum would be considered by the plenary of the Committee;

(c) Approved the proposal to conduct an extensive consultation process with all stakeholders on the outcome of the forum with a view to presenting a proposed agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crises for the consideration of the plenary of the Committee as appropriate;

(d) Agreed that the Bureau would decide on the dates of the forum, taking into consideration the overall programme of work of the Committee.

B. Proposal for enhancing corporate private sector participation in the Committee

32. The Committee acknowledged the proposal for modalities for private sector participation in the Committee (CFS:2011/Inf.15) and expressed appreciation for the constructive involvement by the private sector in its work.

C. Arrangements for the thirty-eighth session

33. The Chair recommended that the thirty-eighth session be held from 15 to 20 October 2012 at FAO headquarters in Rome. The exact dates will be determined by the Director General in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

D. Composition of the Bureau, 2012-2013

34. The Committee elected Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to FAO, as Chair, and elected by acclamation the following representatives as members and alternate members of the incoming Bureau:

- Members: Angola, Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Switzerland, United States of America and Zimbabwe
- Alternates: Armenia, Canada, Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Oman, Sri Lanka, Uganda and two from the Latin America and Caribbean region (to be confirmed).